

### THE LESSON TAUGHT.

From the Teller, Nashville, Tenn.

The reports from the Briceville mining districts, while they startle the more conservative and easy going element of our state, were not altogether unexpected by those who were in close touch with the situation. The miners rested their cause first in the hands of the legislative body of our great state; it proved unworthy of the trust. They next sought the courts where they met a construction of our iniquitous system wholly unfriendly to them. Their next resort was an organized mob; the result is, 305 convict felons turned loose to prey upon society. Why should the state of Tennessee nurse a system which compels 3,990 peaceful inhabitants to make felons of themselves that they may protect their homes and firealides?

When it became apparent that the peace and welfare of the state was endangered Governor Buchanan called the Legislature together, and in as able a message as ever emanated from the state department of Tennessee urged prompt action. To some less far seeing it was thought the governor put undue stress on the matter. Night and day he urged some prompt action. Late developments show that the governor had a true insight of the condition. The Legislature signally failed to grasp the situation, and much valuable time was lost in petty strifes and bickerings over trifling matters unworthy the attention of statesmen. The result was an exposure of the incompetency of our Legislature at a heavy cost to the state. What was to be done? As stated, our courts were resorted to with no avail. Then came the crisis swift and sure at a midnight hour, by an armed mob, in the great state of Tennessee; the death blow was dealt our internal convict lease system and a stunning rebuke administered the incompetent, unworthy and selfish majority of our Legislature, which shirked duty in the face of a crisis.

Is the trouble at an end? Three hundred and five convicts have been released, the guards annihilated and the stockades burnt. The situation is a grave one. The leaders of the mob seem to have well covered their tracks and we are not ready to predict that the work is at an end. Courts have been powerless in such cases to apprehend and convict the leaders. The Cincinnati and New Orleans riots proved this fact.

We deplore the condition, but not as we would if the proper powers had not considered the case and refused to do its duty.

### Shawnee County Alliance.

The meeting of Friday, November 6, was one of unusual interest. The principal topic for discussion was "The Monetary System via the Sub-Treasury Plan." J. G. Otis was present and led the discussion. The attendance was good and all were interested and benefited.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted.

Whereas, Our worthy brother John G. Otis will soon be called to Washington to represent the Fourth Congressional district of our state in the lower house of our national Legislature, be it

Resolved, That we desire to extend to him a warm, fraternal greeting and express our confidence in his ability and integrity to perform the new duties to which he has been called, and we believe that eminent success will crown his efforts in behalf of the people of this district and his nation.

The program for next meeting (December 4), will be general discussions upon "National Co-operation" and the "Sub-Alliance" and how to strengthen it.

H. W. Sandusky, of the State Exchange, will lead the discussion on "National Co-operation."

All the Alliance people are requested to attend as these are matters of much interest at present.

G. G. McCONNELL,  
Secretary.

### Indianapolis Excursion.

All persons desiring to avail themselves of the opportunity of reduced rates at one fare for round trip, (\$14.00), to Indianapolis from Kansas City, leaving Kansas City in the evening of Saturday, November 14, will communicate at once with the undersigned, or meet us at Blossom house, opposite Union depot, Kansas City, Mo., on above date.

W. H. BIDDLE,  
President F. A. & I. U.  
Knox Building, Topeka, Kansas.

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